

Surah 87 Surah A'la

THE MOST HIGH

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH A'LA AND SURAH TAARIQ

Two of the major differences in belief that the *Mushrikeen* had with *Rasulullaah* ﷺ were:

- * the belief of *Towheed*.
- * resurrection and retribution.

The belief in resurrection and *Qiyaamah* has been explained in the *Surahs* up to *Surah Taariq*. The belief in *Towheed* is then discussed in the *Surahs* commencing with *Surah A'la*. One of the main reasons why the *Mushrikeen* opposed *Towheed* was their overwhelming love for the world and being totally engrossed with its pleasures. It is for this reason that Allaah urges abstinence from the world along with belief in *Towheed*.

Some of the *Surahs* mention both these aspects; others mention only one, and there are also those that contain warnings against rejecting them. In between these *Surahs*, *Surah Duha* and *Inshiraa*, unlike the others, contain consolation for *Rasulullaah* ﷺ and the *Sahabah* رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

Since *Surah A'la* begins the final portion of the *Qur'aan* in terms of subject matter. It mentions *Towheed* as well as abstinence from the world. The *Surah* begins with the words, **“Glorify the name of your Exalted Rabb.”** This verse itself urges people to proclaim Allaah to be Pure from all partners because He is The Only True Helper and Knower of the unseen.

Verses 2 to 5 then explain why Allaah is the Only True Helper, thereby establishing the first part of *Towheed*. The reward for propagating this belief is then mentioned in verse 6. Verse 7 thereafter establishes the second part of *Towheed*, when Allaah says, **“Verily Allaah knows what is apparent and what is hidden.”** Therefore, it is understood that *Only* Allaah has knowledge of the unseen. Verse 8 continues to mention the reward for propagating this aspect of *Towheed*.

After citing these two aspects of *Towheed*, Allaah proceeds to console *Rasulullaah* ﷺ by telling him that his task is confined to propagation and that he is not responsible to *make* people believe. Thereafter, verses 12 and 13 warn people about the punishment of the *Aakhirah*, while verses 14 and 15 convey glad tidings of salvation for the righteous.

“However, they (most people) prefer the life of this world whereas the *Aakhirah* is much better and much more lasting” [verses 16 and 17]. These verses urge people to abstain from the luxuries of this world and to apply themselves in acquiring the success of the *Aakhirah*. Allaah then says that the previous scriptures have also propounded the same message. This is found in the scriptures of *Ibraheem* ؑ and *Moosa* ؑ. Therefore, the contents of these scriptures serve as further proof for the authenticity of the *Qur'aan*.

سُورَةُ الْأَعْلَى مَكِّيَّةٌ وَهِيَ تِسْعٌ عَشْرَةَ آيَةً
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

تَسْبِيحُ اسْمِ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى ①

1. Glorify the name of your Exalted Rabb *(The Most High)...*

الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّى ②

2. ...Who created and perfected *(shaped all of creation)...*

وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَى ③

3. ...Who determined *(the proportions, numbers and capabilities of everything)* and showed the way *(to His creation by guiding them to fulfil the functions for which they were created.)...*

وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَى ④

4. ...Who made *(fresh, lush and sought-after)* fodder grow...

فَجَعَلَهُ غَثًا أَحْوَى ⑤

5. ...and then *(after a while)* reduced it to a black heap of *(unwanted)* debris. *(This is symbolic of everything of this world, which tempts people to hanker after it but ultimately becomes something useless and unwanted.)*

سَنُقَرِّبُكَ فَلَا تَنْسَى ⑥

6. (O Rasullullaah ﷺ) We shall soon teach *(recite to)* you *(the Qur'aan)* and you will not forget *(any part of it)...*

إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ وَمَا يَخْفَى ⑦

7. ...except that *(portion of the Qur'aan)* which Allaah wants *(you to forget because it has been cancelled. See verse 106 of Surah 2).* Verily Allaah knows what is apparent *(open)* and what is

hidden (and therefore knows best which laws of the Qur'aan to cancel and when).

وَنُفِيسَ الْيُسْرِ ۝٨

8. We shall soon make the easy thing (the Shari'ah) **simple for you** (so that understanding it, practising it and propagating it becomes easy for you).

فَذَكِّرْ إِن نَّفَعَتِ الذِّكْرَى ۝٩

9. So advise (remind others to practise the Shari'ah) **so that the advice may be beneficial.** (A advice is equally beneficial to the one giving the advice, as it is to others.)

سَيَذَكِّرْهُم مِّن يَّخْشَى ۝١٠

10. The one who fears (Allaah's punishment) **will heed** (understand the advice)...

وَيَجْنِبُهَا الْأَشْقَى ۝١١

11. ...whereas only he will turn away from it who is most unfortunate...

الَّذِي يَصِلَى النَّارَ الْكُبْرَى ۝١٢

12. ...and who shall enter the gigantic fire (of Jahannam).

تَمْرًا لَّيْمُونٌ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَى ۝١٣

13. Then (when he enters Jahannam) **he will neither die there** (and will therefore suffer forever) **nor live** (a life worth living).

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن تَزَكَّى ۝١٤

14. Successful indeed is he who has purified (himself from kufr, shirk and spiritual diseases such as pride, jealousy, etc)...

وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى ۝١٥

15. ...who takes the name of his Rabb (engages in Dhikr) **and performs salaah.**

بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا ۝١٦

16. However, they *(most people)* prefer the life of this world...

وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ ۖ

17. ...whereas the Aakhirah is much better and much more lasting.

إِنَّ هَذَا فِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَىٰ ۖ

18. Undoubtedly, this *(the message given in the verses)* is *(also mentioned)* in the previous *(ancient)* scriptures *(scrolls)*...

صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ ۖ

١
٨٩
١٢

19. ...*(in)* the scriptures of Ibraheem عليه السلام and Moosa عليه السلام.